

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 03682 061650Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4599

UNCLAS QUITO 3682

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, EC (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION ON MRS. CARTER VISIT

FOR: USIA FOR ILA-MILLER; IOP/M; IPS/PL

1. WEEKEND COVERAGE OF MRS. CARTER'S LATIN AMERICAN
TOUR CONTINUED ON PAGE ONE OF QUITO DAILIES, WITH AMPLE
PHOTO COVERAGE OF LIMA ARRIVAL. EDITORIAL COMMENT,
ALL IN EL TIEMPO OF QUITO, WAS UNVARYINGLY FAVORABLE.

2. LEAD EDITORIAL JUNE 5 IN EL TIEMPO DEALT WITH TWO
BASIC QUESTIONS IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP: TRADE LAW DISCRIMINATION
AND ARMS TRANSFERS. ON LATTER POINT, MRS. CARTER'S STATEMENT
REJECTING INTRODUCTION OF SOPHISTICATED ARMAMENTS INTO LATIN
AMERICA "SEEMS JUST TO US. NEVERTHELESS, FOR REASONS
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BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE HEALTHY EQUILIBRIUM
IN THE REGION HAS BEEN BROKEN. IT DOES NOT SEEM SENSIBLE
TO CLOSE THE DOORS TO A COUNTRY WHICH HAS NO OTHER PURPOSE THAN
PLACING ITSELF IN CONDITION TO DEFEND ITSELF AND ASSURE ITS
EXISTENCE, BEYOND ANY AGGRESSIVE SPIRIT.

3. "PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENVOY HAS NOT MADE ANY PROMISES

ON EITHER QUESTION. SHE SAID SHE WOULD INFORM HER HUSBAND OF THE POINTS THAT SHE HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF. IT IS NATURAL THAT THE WIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS NOT IN A POSITION TO COMPROMISE EITHER HER COUNTRY OR HER GOVERNMENT, BUT IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE MOST USEFUL IF SHE TRANSMITS TO THE PRESIDENT ECUADOR'S POSITION, IN ORDER TO FIND WAYS TO OVERCOME THE EXISTING UNDESIRABLE SITUATION. FOR THESE AND OTHER REASONS, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE PRESENCE OF MRS. CARTER IS A POSITIVE STEP TOWARD THE POLICY OF UNDERSTANDING AND WILL HELP TO CLEAR UP PROBLEMS THAT ARE DETERIORATING RELATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA WITH THE UNITED STATES," THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED.

4. COLUMNIST BENJAMIN ORTIZ NOTED THAT MRS. CARTER WAS MET WITH SMILES AND WELCOME, UNLIKE THE ROCKEFELLER MISSION THAT ENCOUNTERED RIOTS AND TEAR GAS, AND AS A RESULT HER VISIT HAS CREATED A "PROPER CLIMATE FOR FUTURE AND MORE SPECIFIC NEGOTIATIONS." HE SPECULATED THAT THE PRIMARY REASON FOR HER VISIT TO ECUADOR WAS TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE RETURN TO CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. "APPARENTLY THE U.S., TIRED AND DISGUSTED BY SUPPORTING HEAVY-HANDED REGIMES, ALSO WANTS TO EXPERIMENT WITH SUPPORT FOR MORE OPEN POLITICAL SYSTEMS, AT LEAST ON THOSE ISLANDS OF PEACE LIKE ECUADOR. THE NEWS IS NOT BAD AT ALL, IF IT IS SEEN WITH THE REQUIRED CLARITY, AND WILL BE AN ELEMENT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN THE POLITICAL CALCULATIONS WE ARE ALL MAKING THESE DAYS."

5. COLUMNIST DIEGO OQUENDO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NO TREATIES WERE SIGNED AND THE TOASTS WERE SOBER, THE RESULTS "BOTH LONG AND SHORT TERM" CAN BE QUALIFIED AS SATISFACTORY. "DONA
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ROSALYNN CAN BE A DECISIVE INFLUENCE IN THE U.S. CHIEF OF STATE'S WILLINGNESS TO EFFECT A FOREIGN POLICY THAT COULD ACQUIRE A TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF LATIN AMERICA."
SHAVER, ACTING

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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